

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 10086 060226Z

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ACTION EA-09

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R 060156Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 558

UNCLAS TOKYO 10086

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, JA

SUBJECT: 1971 LANDSLIDE EXPERIMENT RESULTS IN INDICTMENTS

1. TWO GOJ SCIENTISTS WERE INDICTED BY YOKOHAMA DISTRICT PUBLIC PROSECUTORS OFFICE JULY 1 FOR "PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE RESULTING IN DEATHS AND INJURIES." FOURTEEN PERSONS DIED AND SEVEN WERE INJURED IN ARTIFICIAL LANDSLIDE EXPERIMENT CONDUCTED NOVEMBER 1971 TO STUDY MECHANISMS OF EQUIVALENT NATURAL DISASTER.

2. TWO SCIENTISTS WERE THEN HEADS OF LABORATORIES AT NATIONAL DISASTER PREVENTION CENTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENT (STA). EXPERIMENT WAS CONDUCTED IN KAWASAKI AS PART OF GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM JOINTLY UNDERTAKEN BY STA, CONSTRUCTION MINISTRY, MITI AND MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS. EXPERIMENT, INVOLVING USE OF ARTIFICIAL RAIN TO TRIGGER LANDSLIDE, TOUCHED OFF UNINTENDED COLLATERAL LANDSLIDES, CAUSING 270 SQUARE METERS OF MUD TO DESCENT AT SPEED OF 17 METERS PER SECOND, BURYING ALIVE SCORES OF NEWSMEN AND OTHERS OBSERVING EXPERIMENT ABOUT 40 METERS BELOW.

3. INVESTIGATORS HAVE REACHED CONCLUSION THAT TWO RESEARCH SUPERVISORS FAILED TO CONDUCT ADEQUATE PRELIMINARY STUDY AND TAKE ADEQUATE SAFETY MEASURES TO AVERT DISASTER.  
HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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